

**Worksheet
 Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
 U.S. Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

OFFICE: Sierra Front Field Office

TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2014-0004-DNA

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Issue a full force and effect decision temporarily changing the season of use permitted for the East Petersen Pasture of the Hallelujah Junction Allotment due to drought.

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The East Petersen Pasture is located approximately five miles north of Border Town, Nevada. Township 22N, Range 18E, Portions of Sections 21-22, 26-28, 33-35. Washoe County.

APPLICANT (if any): Dellis Bone

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

Hallelujah Junction Allotment					
Permittee	Allotment	Pasture	Kind	Season of Use	Active AUMs
Dellis Bone	Hallelujah Junction	East Petersen	Cattle	12/21 – 4/15	102
<p>1. The BLM proposes permit 102 AUMs in the East Petersen Pasture of the Hallelujah Junction Allotment for use between December 21, 2013 and April 15, 2014.</p>					

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name* : Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan	Date Approved: May 11, 2001
---	--------------------------------

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions):

Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan

- Maintain or improve the condition of the public rangelands to enhance productivity for all rangeland and watershed values.
- Provide adequate, high quality forage for livestock by improving rangeland condition.
- Maintain a sufficient quality, and diversity of habitat and forage for livestock, wildlife, and wild horses through natural regeneration and/or vegetation manipulation

methods.

- Improve the vegetation resource and range condition by providing for the physiological needs of the key plant species.
- Reduce soil erosion and enhance watershed values by increasing ground cover and litter.
- Improve and maintain the condition of the riparian habitat.

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

Carson City District Drought Management Environmental Assessment (Drought EA)
DOI-BLM-NV-C000-2013-0001-EA dated July 2, 2013.

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

Taylor Grazing Act 1934
Federal Land Policy and Management Act 1976
Public Rangelands Improvement Act 1978
Other Document** Standards and Guidelines for Nevada's Northeastern Great Basin Area, Date Approved: 1997
Hallelujah Junction Allotment Drought Assessment November 2013 for the East Petersen Pasture

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

- 1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

Yes. The current proposed action is to implement, either separately or in combination, Drought Response Actions described in the Drought Management Plan during drought.

“Temporary use of rested, unused or vacant allotments” and “Temporary change in season of use” are two of the Drought Response Actions described in the Drought Management Plan and analyzed in the Drought EA (page 11, page 8). This proposed action was designed based on site specific information using monitoring data collected consistent with the Carson City drought detection and monitoring plan. Data collected in November 2013 indicate that the conditions allow for temporary use and a temporary change in the season of use in the East Petersen Pasture of the Hallelujah Junction Allotment.

- 2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?**

Yes, the current environmental concerns, interests and resource values are the same as previously analyzed. “Temporary use of rested, unused or vacant allotments” and

“Temporary change in season of use” are two of the Drought Response Actions described in

the Drought Management Plan and analyzed in the Drought EA (page 11, page 8). This proposed action was designed based on site specific information using monitoring data collected consistent with the Carson City drought detection and monitoring plan. Data collected in November 2013 indicate that the conditions allow for temporary use and a temporary change in the season of use in the East Petersen Pasture of the Hallelujah Junction Allotment. The range of alternatives analyzed in the Drought EA document for responding to drought conditions remains appropriate with respect to the current proposed action. Since the completion of the Drought EA in 2013, there are no new environmental concerns, interests, resource values or circumstances that have been introduced that would require additional analysis to be conducted in the area.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action.

Yes. The existing analysis covers the current drought conditions that have been documented. "Temporary use of rested, unused or vacant allotments" and "Temporary change in season of use" are two of the Drought Response Actions described in the Drought Management Plan and analyzed in the Drought EA (page 11, page 8). This proposed action was designed based on site specific information using monitoring data collected consistent with the Carson City drought detection and monitoring plan. Data collected in November 2013 indicate that the conditions allow for temporary use and a temporary change in the season of use in the East Petersen Pasture of the Hallelujah Junction Allotment.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes. The direct, indirect, and cumulative effects for the current proposed action are identical to those identified in the Drought EA. The EA sufficiently analyzed all affected resources related to implementing one or more drought response actions.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes. The public involvement and interagency review associated with CCD Drought EA is adequate for the Proposed Action. Comments were accepted on the CCD Drought EA for a 30-day period from March 12, 2013 through April 12, 2013. Postcards mailed to 147 individuals, organizations and agencies were mailed on March 12, 2013. Emails were sent to 10 individuals, organizations and agencies, and notification of the availability of the CCD Drought EA was sent to 61 other State and federal agencies was made through the Nevada State Clearinghouse on March 14, 2013. The CCD published a news release on March 12, 2013. The CCD also posted the Dear Reader Letter and CCD Drought EA on the project website on March 12, 2013. On March 20, 2013 a BLM representative attended both the Churchill County and Mineral County Commissioners meeting and informed the Commissioners and other attendees that the CCD Drought EA was out for public review. The representative also provided five hard copies of the CCD Drought EA and 20 postcards at each of the meetings for the Commissioners and others.

All comments were reviewed, considered, and then categorized into topics when feasible. Distinct topics and comments are summarized in Appendix 7 of the CCD Drought EA. During the comment period approximately 6,950 comment letters and emails were received from numerous individuals, State agencies, and non-governmental organizations by email, fax or mail. Organizations included the Sierra Club, the Cloud Foundation, and the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign. State agencies that commented include the Nevada Division of Water Resources, the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Nevada State Grazing Board District N-3, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Minor non-substantive changes were made to the EA as a result of these comment letters.

D. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

Name/Title	Resource Represented
Kathryn Dyer, Rangeland Management Specialist	Range/Vegetation
Nicole Cutler, Hydrologist	Hydrology/ Riparian/Soils
Paul Fuselier, AFM Renewable Resources	Renewable Resources

Note: Refer to the Drought EA for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

Conclusion (If you found that one or more of these criteria is not met, you will not be able to check this box.)

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.



 Signature of Project Lead



 Signature of NEPA Coordinator

 Leon Thomas _____
 Signature of Responsible Official: **Sierra Front Field Manager** 12-20-13
 Date

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.